Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Mental health includes emotional, psychological, and social well-being; and,

Whereas, Mental health is important at every state of life, from childhood through adolescence and adulthood; and,

Whereas, There are 43.4 million adults aged 18 and older and 3.0 million adolescents aged 12 to 17 that experience mental health conditions each year; and,

Whereas, Mental health conditions have profound effects on families and communities; and,

Whereas, Building awareness through education, positivity, and support reduces stigma and discrimination; and,

Whereas, With early and effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and,

Whereas, Almost 20,000 South Dakotans have received services through one of the eleven community mental health centers across the state; and,

Whereas, Each South Dakotan has the right to access effective and supportive mental services in their communities to foster independence, productivity, and self-worth:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2017 as

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit to increasing awareness and understanding mental health, including the steps people can take to protect their mental health and the need for appropriate and accessible services.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State